
Remarks

The numbered paragraphs of the Office action are responded to through the corresponding numbered paragraphs below. The applicant has addressed each issue in turn and, for clarity, has provided a heading for each issue.

1. The Examiner confirmed that a request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including fee, was filed in this application after final rejection, that the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn and that the applicant's submission filed on 26 November 2002 has been entered. The applicant believes that no specific response is required for this paragraph.

Drawings

2. The Examiner objected to the drawings, indicating that the "'plug head band, fitted between said valve plug head and a recess in said plug stem base cavity' must be shown or the feature(s) canceled from the claim(s)." The applicant believes that these features are shown in figure 1, a highlighted copy of which is enclosed for the Examiner's reference. The plug head band is designated as 104. The valve plug head is designated as 101. The plug stem base cavity is designated as 110. And, the recess in the plug stem base cavity is designated as 105. As shown in figures 1 and 1A and described in the application (page 17 line 18 to page 18 line 17) the plug head band 104 is fitted between the valve plug head 101 and the recess 105 in the plug stem base cavity 110. The applicant has also amended claim 13 to more clearly point out that the second side 114 of the plug head band is fit within the recess of the plug stem base cavity. The applicant believes that since this structure is shown in the submitted figure 1, that no new or corrected drawing is required and that the drawing as submitted shows each of these

features of the claims. The applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of this objection.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

3. The Examiner provided the citation to 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph. The applicant believes no specific response is required for this paragraph.
4. The Examiner rejected claims 13 and 15-20 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph. Specifically, the Examiner stated that "the drawings and the originally filed application indicate that the plug head band is fitted in the recess." The applicant has requested that claim 13 be amended to more clearly point out that the second side is fitted inside the recess. The applicant believes that this requested amendment fully addresses the rejection of this paragraph. The applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection.
5. The Examiner provided the citation to 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph. The applicant believes that no specific response is required for this paragraph.
6. The Examiner rejected claims 16 and 16 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. Specifically, the Examiner referred to the "a band" in claim 16 and "said ductile material" in claim 19. The applicant has requested that claim 16 be amended to clarify this claim. The applicant has requested that claim 19 be amended to correct the antecedent basis of claim 19. The applicant believes that these requested amendments are fully responsive to the rejections of this paragraph. The applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection.

7. The Examiner indicated that "the claims have been examined as could best be understood by the examiner." The applicant appreciates the Examiner's efforts in this examination and believes that no specific response is required for this paragraph.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

8. The Examiner provided the citation to "35 U.S.C. § 102 that forms the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action." The applicant believes that no specific response is required to this paragraph.

9. The Examiner rejected claims 13 and 16 "under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Martell." The applicant has reviewed Martell and does not believe the elements identified by the Examiner as a plug head band (9) or a plug head band retainer (12) are described in the Martell patent at all. The applicant does not find either the part identified in the drawing as (9) or as (12) described in the specification of the Martell patent. Since these reference numbers in the Martell patent are not described in Martell the applicant does not believe they describe the features of the applicant's invention as claimed in claim 13. For the purposes of expediting the prosecution of this application, the applicant has requested that claim 13, on which claim 16 depends be amended to point out the manner in which the band retainer is fitted over the plug head band. The applicant believes that the combination of elements provided in claim 13 and incorporated in claim 16 is neither disclosed nor suggested by the cited reference. The applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection.

The Examiner rejected claims 1-5, 26 and 27 "under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Hibbs, Jr. et al. (4,605,343)." The applicant has requested that claim 1 (on which claims 2-5 depend) and claim 26 (on which claim 27 depends) be amended to

more clearly point out that applicant's invention includes a top layer composed of molybdenum which is bonded to the multi-metal layer. The applicant believes that claims 1 and 26 as amended, and claims 2-5 and 27 because they depend on these amended claims, include elements neither described nor suggested by the cited reference, either alone or in combination with any other known reference. The applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

10. The Examiner provided the citation to 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) "which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action." The applicant believes that no specific response to this paragraph is required. The Examiner also noted that the application currently names joint inventors and that the Examiner has presumed that the subject matter was commonly owned at the time the invention were made. The applicant confirms to the Examiner that the inventors were all employed by the assignee and that the subject matter of the claims was and is commonly owned.

11. The Examiner rejected claims 18 and 20 "under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatenable over Martell as applied above, and further in view of Maier et al." As previously noted, the applicant has requested that claim 13, on which claims 18 and 20 depend, be amended to more clearly point out the band retainer fitted over the plug head band and fixed by a device to the plug stem base. The applicant believes that this combination of elements is neither disclosed or suggested by the cited (or any other known references) either alone or in combination. Since claims 18 and 20 include the limitations of claim 13, the applicant believes that this requested amendment to claim 13

and these comments are fully responsive to the rejection of this paragraph. The applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection.

12. The Examiner rejected claims 13, 15 and 17 "under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatenable over Peters." The applicant's review of the Peters patent leads the applicant to the conclusion that the elements of claim 13, on which claims 15 and 17 depend and which incorporate all of the limitations of claim 13, are not disclosed in the Peters patent. What the Examiner calls a plug head (37a) is described in Peters as "quadrant points of a channel" (Peters column 3, lines 24-25). The Examiner refers to the periphery of (36) as a plug head band, but Peters identifies 36 as an O ring (Peters column 3, line 10). As the applicant specifies in claim 13, the plug head band holds the plug head to the valve plug stem. The applicant does not believe the O ring 36 of Peters can or could perform this function. Rather Peters describes the O ring 36 is used for maintaining the pressure at all times with the channel (Peters column 3, lines 18-35). Moreover, claim 13 includes the limitation of the second side of the plug head band being fit within a recess in the plug stem base cavity. The applicant believes this element in combination with the other elements of claim 13 is neither described nor suggested by the Peters or any other known references. The applicant believes that claim 13, and claims 15 and 17 which depend on claim 13 and incorporate the limitations of claims 13, previously and especially as currently amended, and these remarks are fully responsive to the rejection of this paragraph. The applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection.

Response to Arguments

13. The Examiner indicated that the "Applicant's arguments with respect to claim 13 have been considered but are moot in view of the new grounds of rejection." The applicant appreciates the Examiners consideration and believes that no specific response to this paragraph is required.

Conclusion

14. The Examiner indicated that the "prior art made of record and no relied upon is considered pertinent to the applicant's disclosure." The applicant appreciates the Examiners search for references and respectfully requests that these additional references be included in the list of References Cited in this case.

Communication

15. The Examiner has provided information concerning communication and/or inquiries concerning this case and has provided information regarding the faxing of responses to Office actions. Applicant appreciates the Examiner's willingness to communicate and assistance regarding this case and believes no response to this paragraph is necessary.

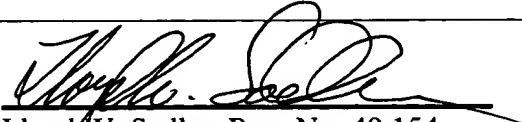
The applicant has requested that claims 13, 16 and 19 be amended as previously described. The applicant believes that all issues and points of the Examiner's Office action have been addressed. Applicant believes that the pending claims 13 and 15-20, including the amended claims 13, 16 and 19, are patentable over all known prior art. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and allowance of this application.

Respectfully submitted this 13 th day of August, 2003.

Response/Amendment
App. S/N: 09/253,793
Attorney Docket No. 4164 P

RESPONSE TO NON- FINAL OA
Response and Amendment

Examiner: Eric S. Keasel
Group Art Unit: 3754
Confirmation No. 6093

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Lloyd W. Sadler", is written over a horizontal line.

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